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VANCOUVER • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2008 metronews.ca

Celebrity Pg 26

Renée reveals breast cancer scare

Old blog haunts Tory candidate

ELECTION A series of four-year-old blog postings are coming back to haunt a Vancouver Conservative Party candidate.

Ryan Warawa, who's running in Vancouver East, posted a series of blogs in 2004, some of which seem to support the legalization of marijuana and prostitution in brothels.

But a spokesman for the party said the posts are old and today Warawa supports his party's platform.

Warawa is not the only candidate whose past actions have been called to light recently.

Yesterday, the federal NDP candidate for Saanich-Gulf Islands stepped down after admitting he took his clothes off in front of a group of teenagers 12 years ago.

Two other NDP candidates have also dropped out because of past marijuana endorsements.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

ShareYourViews
vancouverletters@metronews.ca

Election 2008 pg 8

- Vancouver East
- Heard on the Street
- People don't care about arts funding: Harper

World pg 9

Finn kills 11 in rampage

Please recycle

Stopped! **Oilers melt**

LYLE STAFFORD/REUTERS

Roberto Luongo makes a save in front of Edmonton Oilers' Ryan Potulny during first period pre-season NHL hockey action at GM Place last night. The Canucks swept a home-and-home series with a 2-1 win. **Fan comments, page 4. Coverage page 10.**

Famed otter dies

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

One of the Vancouver Aquarium's most beloved and well-known animals, its 20-year-old sea otter Nyac, died this morning.

Nyac came to the aquarium in 1989 after being rescued from the Exxon Valdez oil spill off the coast of Alaska.

She gained international fame last year when a video was posted on YouTube showing Nyac and her companion Milo holding hands.

The video has been seen by more than 11 million viewers.

Kent Hurl, a spokesperson for the aquarium, said Nyac had been showing signs of her age for a few years and on Friday, when her condition suddenly worsened, she was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

He added that a service will likely be held to remember Nyac, but it's too early to say when.

Martin Haulena, the aquarium's veterinarian, said staff is devastated.

Nyac

"Her wonderful spirit and lively nature captured the attention and adoration of all who have had the good fortune to spend time in her presence," he said.

"Even as we'll miss her we know she'll continue to provide vital information on the long-term effects of oil exposure."

Clint Wright, senior vice president, aquarium operations and planning, said Nyac overcame "incredible odds" to have survived the oil spill.

"She lived long, has been adored by millions, and is an inspirational story of hope against the backdrop of a substantial environmental tragedy," he said.

OnlineVideos
metronews.ca

Regulate hot air balloons: TSB report

Passengers on a hot air balloon that burst into flames in Surrey, killing two women, weren't given a proper emergency exit plan before takeoff, according to the findings of an investigation released yesterday,

The Transportation Safety Board (TSB) Of Canada's report on the August 2007 accident is calling for tighter industry regulations.

It found that the explosion was caused when a fuel line became dislodged from a propane tank just before liftoff, "probably due to a combination of age, wear, handling, and allowing propane under pressure to be expelled."

There was no emergency shut-off valve to turn off the propane, the report found.

Eleven of the 13 passengers jumped overboard but Shannon Knackstedt, 49, and her daughter Gemma, 21, were still aboard when the balloon lifted into the sky and then plummeted into a trailer park. They both died.

The board has recommended Canada's hot air balloon industry be regulated by the same rules as other aircraft that carry the same number of passengers.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

Conclusion

- The Transportation Safety Board reached the same conclusions in the case of a balloon crash in Winnipeg, which happened the same month.

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare into Honolulu and return from Maui, inter-island airfare, 4 nights 3-star Waikiki accom and 4 nights 3-star accom in Maui. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom in Honolulu and Maui from $29 per night. **ADD** parasailing adventure in Honolulu from $59. **ADD** ultimate Molokai golf package in Maui from $369.

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Ecuador Galapagos Islands FROM **$1429**
INCLUDES all accom, local transportation, tour leader, local guides and some meals on this 6-day small group tour. Discover strange and wonderful wildlife and wilderness on a cruise through the remote and beautiful Galapagos Islands. Get up close to the animals, spend endless days exploring tiny islands, swimming and learning about the history and conservation of this remarkable destination that sparked Charles Darwin's concept of natural selection.

Belize Diving Adventure FROM **$1519**
INCLUDES 7 nights beach front accom, domestic airfare, transfers, a local guide, meals: 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 7 dinners, daily diving and various daily activities including water sports, hiking and wildlife viewing. **UPGRADE** to unique treehouse accom from $40 per day.

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Kids can cash in for green shift
B.C. kids have been given more incentive to go green. A contest was announced at Science World B.C. yesterday, asking students to send their green ideas to the education minister. Winners will receive up to $2,000. **NEWS1130.COM**

Local

AC/DC tickets booming like TNT

Metal fans hoping to get tickets to AC/DC's sold-out Vancouver show will have to dig deep into their pockets. Tickets, which sold out in just four minutes, are now going for as much as $1,400 online. The hard-rocking band, on tour to support their forthcoming album, Black Ice, will play GM Place on Nov. 28. METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

OLYMPICS Students living in the Sea-to-Sky corridor have two big reasons to look forward to the 2010 Games. Not only will schools in the area be closed for two weeks during the Olympics, but VANOC yesterday announced it's inviting teenagers who live within an hour of Whistler to sign up for youth volunteer opportunities. The Youth Participation Program has about 250 spots for young residents to help to stage sport events or work in customer service roles during the Games.

COURT An undercover police officer told a B.C. Supreme Court yesterday that a man accused of murdering five people said he'd be willing to kill someone to keep police off his tail, cknw.com reports. Nathan Fry has been accused of lighting a house fire that killed a Congolese family.

CRIME Investigators are treating the violent deaths of a man and a woman in Mission as a targeted double murder, RCMP said yesterday. Guthrie Jolan McKay, 33, and Lisa Cheryl Dudley, 37, were originally thought to have died in a murder-suicide. METRO VANCOUVER

Dion hails carbon tax

Liberal leader credits B.C. as pioneering on 'green' front

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

The introduction of B.C.'s carbon tax is a milestone in Canadian history no less important than the birth of public health care in Saskatchewan, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion said yesterday.

Dion was promoting his 'Green Shift' platform at a Burnaby Board of Trade breakfast near Metrotown. The Green Shift, like B.C.'s carbon tax, aims to charge people for activities and behaviours that pollute, returning the money in business and income tax cuts.

"When history looks back on the moment that Canada brought its greenhouse gas emissions under control and spurred the green economy, it will have started right here in British Columbia," Dion said.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Liberal party Leader Stéphane Dion boards a campaign bus yesterday in Burnaby.

He praised Premier Gordon Campbell and said he shares the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions while spurring a green economy.

B.C.'s carbon tax has been lauded by environmentalists, but has been heavily criticized by the NDP, partly because it was introduced this summer just as gas prices topped $1.50 per litre.

Dion also said his plan will harmonize with the provincial plan. It taxes carbon at a wholesale level, not at the pumps like it is in B.C.

$400M promise

- Dion also unveiled a 'Green Gateway' plan to support the infrastructure demands of B.C.'s Pacific Gateway, promising an additional $400 million over the next decade.

No charges yet in hit-and-run death

CRIME The suspected driver in a hit-and-run in East Vancouver that resulted in the death of a 64-year-old man turned herself in to police yesterday.

The 25-year-old was interviewed and released, but no charges were laid.

On Sunday, a blue Ford Explorer ran a red light at Grandview and Commercial Drive striking the man and his 67-year-old wife. The man died and the woman suffered broken bones.

Earlier, the SUV clipped a cyclist who was not seriously hurt. METRO VANCOUVER

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Watch as the arts take centre stage in the federal election as the party leaders take jabs at Harper for his funding cuts at www.metronews.ca/canada. Also, watch as Green party Leader Elizabeth May calls for action on nuclear proliferation and looks to declare Canada a nuclear-weapons free zone.

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Lab puppy with stomach tattoo stolen from owner's yard

A 14-month-old yellow Labrador puppy has been stolen from the backyard of its owner's home in Delta, police said yesterday. The dog, named Sask, has a tattoo on its stomach. METRO VANCOUVER

Vision recount confirms wins

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Vision Vancouver's recount, which was announced yesterday, confirmed Saturday's results as Kashmir Daliwal and Ken Clement claimed the party's eighth council and fourth school board nomination, respectively, in November's civic election.

The recount confirmed that only 17 votes separated Daliwal from homelessness advocate David Eby. It also shrunk by two votes Clement's razor-thin margin of victory. He defeated Stepan Vdovine by a mere six votes.

Eby said he was proud of his team of political novices and how close they came to winning a nomination.

The Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE), which is running a shared slate with Vision, will hold their nomination meeting Sunday.

News in brief

BUST RCMP in Mission said yesterday it has performed its biggest-ever grow-op bust, cknw.com reports. Police searched a property on Nicomen Island Trunk Road and found more than 9,000 marijuana plants and equipment worth millions of dollars. Six men were arrested.

BAIT Two Lower Mainlanders have been arrested after a bait car was stolen, police said yesterday. Ridge Meadows RCMP arrested a 39-year-old Abbotsford man and a 36-year-old Maple Ridge woman after the suspects allegedly hit an unmarked police car that had been following them.

STRUCK Police in New Westminster are seeking the driver of a pick-up truck that hit a 76-year-old pedestrian, cknw.com reports. The woman was on Ewen Avenue when she was struck. She's expected to recover. METRO NEWS SERVICE

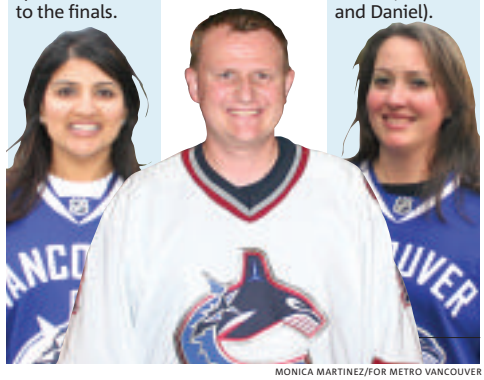
TODAY'S question

How do you think the Canucks will do this season?

SAM BANWAIT
26
operations assistant
With a bit of motivation, I'm optimistic that they will get far this season. New players like (Steve) Bernier and (Kyle) Wellwood will give the team some spirit to make it to the finals.

BRIAN LAWSON
25
server
They lost three of their biggest players but they'll surprise a lot of people. As long as they don't lose (Roberto) Luongo. He is the franchise.

NIKI AVERY
24
Vancouver
X-ray technician
They'll get far with the energy of players like (Ryan) Kesler and (Pavol) Dimitra mixed with the veteran blood of (Roberto) Luongo and the Sedins (Henrik and Daniel).



MONICA MARTINEZ/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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– *Canadian Real Estate*, March-April, 2008

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Haute way into fashion world

COMPETITION Thursday's Generation Next competition could be the gateway into the fashion world for some local up-and-coming designers.

The contest is one of the most anticipated shows during B.C. Fashion Week.

Finalists Margarita Angelatos for Red Jade, Michelle Lee and Garry Favell for Joseph and Elizabeth, and Jenny Yen and Tabitha Savoie for Two of Hearts are vying for a sponsored fashion show, financial and marketing plans, public relations services, and editorial in an industry magazine. "(It's an) opportunity to meet and work with some of Vancouver's talented fashion industry professionals," said Lee.

Last year's winner Lara, Presber, is in Paris buying fabrics for her fall '09 collection. "It gave me an opportunity to make connections with designers, press and stores in other Canadian cities, which broadens my brand presence," she said. KIM ELBO / METRO VANCOUVER

Tickets

- Finalists present their spring collections on the BCFW main stage at the Chinese Cultural Centre Thursday. Tickets are $10 at clubzone.com

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Red tape may hinder AIDS aid

Apotex's first shipment of anti-AIDS medication leaves today for Rwanda, but the Canadian drug maker says next year's shipment may be its last because of the amount of red tape involved with Canada's Access to Medicines Regime law. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada

World's first Everest jump

At least 34 skydivers from 14 countries, including Canada, will attempt the first parachute jumps over Mount Everest next week, organizers said yesterday. The skydivers plan to jump from an aircraft flying 465 feet above the Everest summit on Oct. 2. Each participant will wear an oxygen mask and carry a larger than normal parachute to help a fast descent through the thin air of the world's highest drop zone. REUTERS

New hurdles for immigrants?

Only 38 jobs qualify under Tory proposal

The federal Conservatives plan to limit acceptance of skilled workers applying to come to Canada to only 38 occupations, a move that will not serve provincial labour needs, says Ontario immigration minister Michael Chan.

The proposed changes, he said, were discussed at a meeting between Immigration Minister Diane Finley and her provincial counterparts in Ottawa earlier this month. Now provinces are concerned they will have to expand their own immigration programs, Chan said.

Those applicants whose occupations are not on the list, he said, would have to apply through provincial "nominee" programs — a move that, in effect, downloads a large part of the immigration burden on to provincial governments.

"The (federal) plan would require economic-class immigrants to clear two hurdles," Chan told a news conference in Toronto yesterday.

One is a new occupational test. The other is the points system which is already in place.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

numbers

- Last year, 131,200 newcomers arrived under Immigration Canada's economic class category.

Calgary **One tiny dino**

TODD KOROL/REUTERS

Nick Longrich, a paleontology research associate in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Calgary, announces the discovery of North America's smallest dinosaur yesterday in Calgary. The dinosaur is 70 million years old, the size of a chicken, is called Albertonykus borealis and is thought to have survived on a diet of insects.

News in brief

EDUCATION Ontario's Lakehead University announced yesterday that students who enter the school with a 95 per cent average or higher will get free tuition.

WINNIPEG A man who died in the waiting area of a Winnipeg hospital's emergency department may have been dead for some time before staff was alerted — 34 hours after he arrived, CBC News Online reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

4 provinces, 7 states enter climate deal

CARBON TRADING Seven Western U.S. states and four Canadian provinces yesterday proposed a carbon trading program plan designed to reduce global warming pollution by 15 per cent from 2005 levels by 2020.

Now each state and province is to make laws and rules that fit the plan outlined by the Western Climate Initiative (WCI). The goal is to establish in 2012 the biggest carbon market in the Western Hemisphere over a region that includes about 85 million people.

REUTERS

provinces

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- Ontario
- Quebec

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MYTH: Only the rich can afford commercial real estate.

REALITY: Commercial property makes you rich, but you don't need to be loaded with cash to get started. **Find out why at this amazing free workshop: *How To Make Money With Commercial Real Estate.***

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Cherif Medawar
International Investor & Authority on Commercial Real Estate

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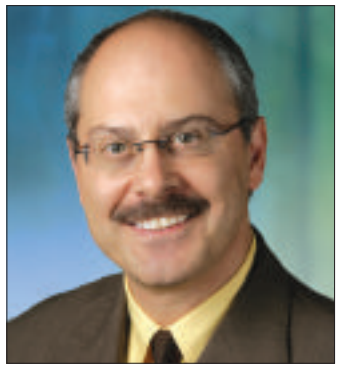

From Hotel Manager to Real Estate Magnate

Cherif Medawar, Founder, Institute of Commercial Real Estate (ICRE)

My education at UCLA taught me how to work for money, but not how to make my money work for me. I was working night and day as a hotel manager in California when a billionaire guest pulled me aside and said, "Cherif, come work for me. I will show you the path to wealth."

I learned how to acquire properties, how real estate deals are structured, and how billions are made. On a much smaller scale, I also began to buy my own properties and develop a personal system for creating wealth.

Today, I have property all over the world. And yet, I work less than ever.

Let me open the door to wealth for you just as the billionaire once did for me. Learn my 12 steps to wealth. It all begins at my FREE workshop.

For Beginners & Seasoned Investors!

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At my FREE 90-minute workshop, you'll discover how to find hidden real estate gems, how to structure risk-free deals that make you wealthy, and how you can do this quickly in your local real estate market or any area you choose.

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Mmmmmm ... yogurt

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion is using some humour to swipe at Stephen Harper's cuts to arts and culture. "A box of yogurt has more culture than this Conservative government," Dion told students gathered at the University of British Columbia yesterday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Election 2008

News in brief

PROMISES Big-city mayors — including Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay — came together yesterday to demand federal party leaders pay attention to the needs of cities. "For once we're speaking (with) one voice and if we're speaking (with) one voice, can we hear from the five leaders?" Tremblay said.

PROMISES A Liberal government would be hard-pressed to quickly implement its big-ticket campaign promises because Conservatives have spent like "drunken sailors," leaving little left in the federal coffers, says Liberal John McCallum, a former cabinet minister. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

20 days remain until the 2008 Canadian federal election

Artists whiners: PM

Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper has sparked a culture war with claims "ordinary people" don't care about arts funding.

Under fire for his government's $45 million in cuts to arts and cultural funding, Harper yesterday said average Canadians have no sympathy for "rich" artists who gather at galas to whine about their grants.

"I think when ordinary working people come home, turn on the TV and see a gala of a bunch of people at, you know, a rich gala all subsidized by taxpayers claiming their subsidies aren't high enough when they know those subsidies have actually gone up — I'm not sure that's something that resonates with ordinary people," Harper said at a campaign event in Saskatoon.

CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper greets supporters outside his hotel yesterday in Saskatoon.

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion and NDP Leader Jack Layton accused their Tory rival of having contempt for the arts.

Dion said the Conservatives "ideologically attack" the arts, while Layton predicted Harper would sell off the CBC and undermine Canadian culture if he wins a majority government Oct. 14.

But Harper shrugged off his opponents as elitists preoccupied by "a niche issue." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

OnlineVideos metronews.ca

Heard on the Street: Does the physical appearance of a politician influence your vote?

From Metro newsrooms across Canada

Lanie Forget, age 32, Vancouver

A: A little. If a politician is male or female, black, white, sure it would influence me. In Canadian politics, image is less important.

Julio Montero, age 32, Vancouver

A: No. I look for what their agenda is and what their values are. Harper looks conservative and boring, but I'll make my decision on what politicians stand for.

Leanne Holowach, age 23, Vancouver

A: Definitely. If a politician looks like a crackhead, I won't vote for him. Image is everything in the world we live in.

Jesse Hahn, age 24, Edmonton

A: That's poly-sci 101. It's all about charisma, which is something the public bestows on their leader.

Robert Berg, age 27, Ottawa

A: Yes. If the appearance of a person is not good, I think the person is not taking good care of himself. Someone who looks good takes care of himself and it means they can take care of others better.

Shoilee Khan, age 24, Toronto

A: No, it does not ... When it comes down to it, if someone is standing for something that I believe in and I don't much like the way they look, I'll still vote for them.

Riding: Vancouver East

The NDP have held the riding — 42 per cent of its constituents are immigrants — since 1997 with Libby Davies at the helm. Vancouver East is home to Insite, the controversial supervised injection site.

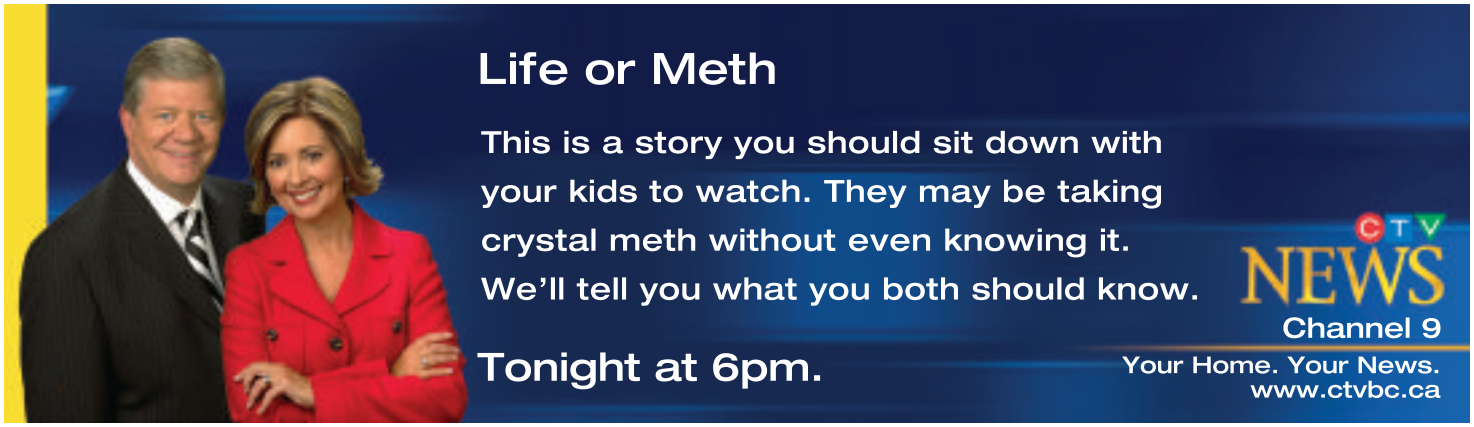
Libby Davies NDP
AGE: 55
PARTY: New Democratic
POSITION: Politician
"More than 20 medical and academic studies have been published showing the health and social benefits of Insite … Harper doesn't understand that you can't just hide the facts whenever they don't suit your political agenda."

Ryan Warawa Conservative
AGE: 32
PARTY: Conservative
POSITION: Payroll department at Best Buy
"Dion's carbon tax on everything will destroy our economy. British Columbians cannot afford a national carbon tax when they already pay a provincial carbon tax."

Ken Low Liberal
AGE: 57
PARTY: Liberal
POSITION: Engineer for the City of Vancouver
A boost in federal support for affordable housing to help seniors, single parents and low-income families is on Low's list of priorities.

Mike Carr Green Party
PARTY: Green
POSITION: SFU instructor
A longtime activist, Carr is working toward a green Grandview-Woodlands and opposes the federal and provincial government's Gateway Project.

Anne Jamieson Marxist-Leninist
PARTY: Marxist-Leninist
POSITION: Registered nurse
"…the question facing Canadians in this election … is how to help resolve the present disequilibrium in favour of the people, rather than in favour of (private narrow interests)."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"Big Bang" collider to restart in spring
The huge particle collider built to simulate the conditions of the "Big Bang" will not restart until spring 2009 after a weekend technical glitch, the European Organization for Nuclear Research said yesterday. REUTERS

World

20 years for MP3 killing

A Belgian court yesterday jailed a Polish man for 20 years for fatally stabbing a teenager who refused to hand over an MP3 player during a robbery, ending a trial which gripped the country. Rather than finding Adam Giza guilty of murder, the jury opted for the lesser charge of "violent theft leading to death." REUTERS

Sudan says it has located hostages

KIDNAPPING Sudanese authorities have located a group of kidnappers and the 19 hostages they seized in Egypt last week, but have no plans for a rescue attempt that could endanger them, a Sudanese official said yesterday.

Masked kidnappers snatched the hostages from a desert safari near Egypt's southern border with Sudan and Libya on Friday. REUTERS

News in brief

STUDY The rate of HIV infection among people who inject themselves with drugs appears to be rising, according to a study published today. An estimated 3 million self-injecting drug users worldwide may be HIV positive, said the analysis of peer-reviewed studies and data from UN agencies and international experts. REUTERS

Gunman left trail of hate

11 dead in school rampage

Student gunman Matti Saari, who killed 10 people at a Finnish school yesterday before shooting himself, left a trail of Internet postings about hatred and revenge.

Matti Saari

But according to a former classmate, the 22-year-old travel and restaurant trade student from the western Finnish town of Kauhajoki bore no resemblance to the loner profile of many mass murderers.

"He was happy, a social guy — there was nothing exceptional. He got along with people well and he was not lonely. He had friends," said Susanna Keronen, who was trying to fathom what might have led him to take such drastic action.

In his profile on the ircgallery social networking site, Saari, who lived alone with his cat, billed himself as a committed misanthrope. Other entries touted war and revenge.

Police, alerted to video footage posted on the Internet showing Saari firing a gun, questioned him only the day before the rampage, Interior Minister Anne Holmlund said.

She gave no details of the interview, but said police did not ask him to surrender the gun because they decided he had made no specific threats. REUTERS

LOTTA IMBERG/METRO WORLD NEWS

A group of teenaged girls places candles near the Kauhajoki vocational school yesterday, hours after a lone gunman entered the facility and killed 10 students and then himself.

China vows milk export crackdown

CRISIS China vowed to stop toxic milk from reaching processors and export markets after tainted infant powder made more than 54,000 children sick in a scandal that has mired the nation's trade reputation in a fresh crisis.

Milk powder laced with melamine has led to nearly 13,000 Chinese infants being admitted to hospital, 104 of them in serious condition with kidney stones and painful complications. Four have died in past months. REUTERS

Facts

- Two more children in Hong Kong were found to be sick after consuming toxic Chinese milk powder, bringing the total there to four.

Blues defenceman Johnson out indefinitely

The St. Louis Blues announced yesterday that defenseman Erik Johnson will be sidelined indefinitely with injuries to his right knee. Johnson consulted with doctors, where it was determined the Minnesota native tore both his ACL and MCL in a non-hockey related incident. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Pierce expected to play Saturday

Despite being knocked unconscious last weekend in Regina, Lions quarterback Buck Pierce, left, will be under centre this Saturday night when B.C. hosts Hamilton. Pierce has undergone a battery of tests and has been pronounced fit enough to make his fifth consecutive start. The Lions are 3-1 since Pierce regained the starting pivot's job at the end of August.

SCOTT RINTOUL/METRO VANCOUVER

EDITOR: SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Canucks take down Oilers

Vancouver off to a 2-o start to pre-season before California road trip

SCOTT RINTOUL
Metro Vancouver

Canucks 2 Oilers 1

The Vancouver Canucks made it two preseason wins over the Edmonton Oilers in as many nights with a 2-1 victory at GM Place last night.

Former first round pick Michael Grabner scored the game winner on a second period tap-in on the power-play, thanks to a burst of speed down the left wing by linemate Jannik Hansen, who then fed the puck across the crease to Grabner. Vancouver's other tally came courtesy Darcy Hordichuk on a deflection in the opening stanza.

Roberto Luongo conceded one goal on fourteen shots in his preseason debut before giving way to backup Curtis Sanford late in the second period.

Last night also marked the first action of the preseason for highly touted rookie Cody Hodgson, who played on a line with summer signees Pavol Demitra and Steve Bernier. Though Hodgson did not look out of place, he was hardly the dominating force that racked up five points in two prospect games last week.

The Canucks will now have three days before playing back-to-back road games against the San Jose Sharks and Anaheim Ducks this weekend.

REUTERS/JULE STAFFORD

Vancouver defenceman Nathan McIver fights Edmonton's Zack Stortini during the first period of the Canucks' 2-1 pre-season last night in Vancouver.

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

Lions giving York a bad name

Go to www.metronews.ca to read Marty York's take on his alma mater's woeful football team.

SCOREBOARD

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
N.Y. Yankees 3 Toronto 1
Boston 5 Cleveland 4
Kansas City 5 Detroit 0
Minnesota 9 Chicago White Sox 3
Tampa Bay 5 Baltimore 2 (1st gm)
Texas 6 Oakland 4
Tampa Bay 7 Baltimore 5 (2nd gm)
Seattle 9 L.A. Angels 6

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Atlanta 3 Philadelphia 2
Cincinnati 2 Houston 1
Milwaukee 7 Pittsburgh 5
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St. Louis 7 Arizona 4
Washington 9 Florida 4
L.A. Dodgers 10 San Diego 1
Colorado 9 San Francisco 4

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Dell to open retail stores in emerging markets
Dell recently switched from a pure online sales model to build an expanding network of retail stores, allowing even customers without Internet access, in emerging markets such as India, to buy their first computer. REUTERS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Bank CEO pay falls with company's fortunes

The global financial crisis has taken a big bite out of Wall Street pay packets, with top bankers losing hundreds of millions of dollars as stocks collapse.

The chief executives of Wall Street's biggest banks get the lion's share of their pay in stocks and stock options. So when the banks' share prices take a dive, so too do their fortunes.

Shareholders want to ensure executives run the company well, said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard and Poor's. "The easiest way to do that is to make sure his pay rises and falls depending on the success or failure of the company. And here we see what happens when the company fails," he said.

Lehman Brothers CEO Dick Fuld watched more than $740 million US drain out of his personal fortune.

Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein lost nearly half a billion from his bank account as the firm felt the crisis's effects.

Merrill Lynch CEO John Thain lost more than $51 million, while Morgan Stanley's John Mack lost more than $123 million.

The Wall Street chieftains have still managed to pocket some sizable fortunes. Blankfein took home a total pay package worth more than $67 million US last year.

Fuld, who received a bonus worth more than $35 million US in his last year running Lehman Brothers, made so much that he is under pressure to return some of his fortune to shareholders who lost everything.

JAMES DORAN/
METRO WORLD NEWS

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Local:
Publisher, Maryse Lalonde
Managing Editor, Fernando Carneiro
fernando.carneiro@metronews.ca
Distribution Manager, George Acimovic
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Honeywell finds alternative to explosive fertilizer
Honeywell International said it has found a way to make a safer, non-explosive alternative to ammonium nitrate — which has been used to make bombs — by combining it with ammonium sulfate to create a dry nitrogen agricultural fertilizer. REUTERS

Accountability needed for economic mess: UN leaders

U.S. President George W. Bush and other world leaders scrambled yesterday to contain the fallout from a financial crisis engulfing Wall Street and spreading globally.

In his farewell speech to the United Nations, Bush offered assurances of his commitment to stabilizing world markets, which are overshadowing international concerns about standoffs with Russia, Iran and North Korea.

But he also faced criticism at the annual General Assembly gathering of world leaders over the excesses of global capitalism that Washington has long pushed as the path to economic prosperity.

"May those who are responsible be punished."
Nicolas Sarkozy

"Who is responsible for this disaster? May those who are responsible be punished and held accountable," said French President Nicolas Sarkozy. He called for a summit of world leaders in November to examine ways to overhaul what he said was a "crazy" financial setup at the root of the problem.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the crisis stemmed in part from U.S. military interventions in places such as Iraq.

"American empire in the world is reaching the end of its road, and its next rulers must limit their interference to their own borders," he said. REUTERS

Canadians in for credit slowdown

CRISIS Canadians were given a reality check yesterday about how the global financial crisis would hit their wallets as bank executives predicted a slowdown in consumer lending, while the Bank of Canada took more action to provide liquidity to commercial banks.

"There is going to be a real challenge in terms of the economy."
CIBC's Gerry McCaughey

Speaking at an investor conference in Montreal, most bank executives are moderating expectations for loan growth in 2009 and beyond as economic headwinds hamper retail revenues.

"I expect that there is going to be a real challenge in terms of the economy and the industry maintaining loan growth," said Gerry McCaughey, CEO of CIBC.

McCaughey suggested that banks could also clamp down on unsecured lending. Analysts have long speculated that banks are mulling more steps to curb unsecured lending — such as consumer lines of credit not backed by collateral — as a way to reduce risk.

Craig Fehr, a financial services analyst with brokerage Edward Jones, said consumers should also expect higher borrowing costs and fees coupled with tougher lending standards, particularly for those with spotty credit — and that the cost of getting a mortgage could rise. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Feds forgot manufacturing sector: Buzz

CRITICISM Canada is losing its status as one of the world's top nations because it is relying far too much on booming resource industries and ignoring the struggling manufacturing sector, says former Canadian Auto Workers leader Buzz Hargrove.

REBECCA COOK/REUTERS
Buzz Hargrove

Furthermore, none of the major political party leaders is offering Canadians any viable solutions during the federal election campaign to help reverse the sector's "shocking" slide in recent years, Hargrove told a manufacturing conference yesterday.

For two decades, Canadians made significant progress in escaping an international reputation as "hewers of wood and drawers of water" because its manufacturing sector grew. "Now, we're throwing it away," Hargrove told the annual Canadian Manufacturing Week conference, held by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. "Ottawa seems willing to allow Canada to once again put all our economic eggs in the resource basket."

The shakeout in manufacturing and federal refusal to support the sector has put Canada on the brink of a recession, Hargrove said.

He said Canada can take trade actions to defend its industries under World Trade Organization rules like many other countries, but instead insists on acting like "boy scouts." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Liberals 'terrible' for income trust fear mongering

It was "terrible" for the Liberal Party to put Canadian income trusts back in the limelight as an election issue, raising the spectre of prolonged uncertainty, the head of fund manager CI Financial Income Fund said yesterday.

"I would like income trusts to be taken off the table once and for all," Bill Holland, chief executive of CI Financial, told an investor conference.

CI, one of Canada's largest independent fund managers, converted to the tax-advantaged income trust structure in June 2006, after delaying an earlier conversion plan.

Four months later, the governing Conservative Party shocked markets by announcing that income trusts' distributions would be taxed, starting in 2011, basically shutting down the creation of new trusts.

"We were an income trust for 100 days ... the problem is now, we don't know what an income trust can do," Holland said.

The Liberals said on Monday they would implement a 10 per cent tax on trusts refundable to Canadian residents. REUTERS

Business in brief

BAILOUT Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. will invest $5 billion US in Goldman Sachs Group Inc., in a major boost for the Wall Street bank from perhaps the world's best-known investor.

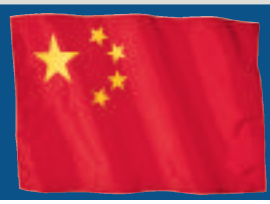
Shares of Goldman rose 8.1 per cent after the announcement, while Standard & Poor's 500 futures gained 15 points.

Goldman also announced plans to sell $2.5 billion US of common stock. Buffett is adding Goldman to a portfolio of investments at Berkshire that includes large stakes in a handful of major U.S. commercial banks. REUTERS

U of T launches research website

The University of Toronto launched its Experience Research website recently. The vibrant site includes six portals focusing on research in environment, health, society, arts and culture, science and technology, and business. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology



China enrolment

Foreign student enrolment is increasing significantly in China. Between 1997 and 2007, the number of international students attending Chinese universities jumped from 39,000 to 195,000. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Ever-elusive lunch hour

- Could the "lunch hour" be facing extinction? According to a recent survey, executives polled said their average lunch break is 35 minutes — seven minutes less than what they reported five years ago. Managers also admitted they work through lunch more than half of the workweek.
- The survey was developed by OfficeTeam, a leading staffing service specializing in the placement of professionals. Executives were asked, "What is the average length of your typical lunch break?" The mean response was 35 minutes, compared to 42 minutes in 2003.
- "In today's 24/7 workplace, a lunch break often takes a back seat to e-mails, phone calls, meetings and pressing deadlines," said Dave Willmer, executive director of OfficeTeam. "Many people are doing more work with fewer resources and, therefore, putting in more time at their desks. Some may also be working across time zones and forgoing lunch breaks to accommodate their colleagues' schedules."

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As General Manager at Paterson Countertops, a family owned company, Jon Irwin's responsibilities cover almost all aspects of the business. Since September 2007, Jon has been enrolled in the **CMA Program.**

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Stressful journey to stress-relieving job

KRISTA MARTIN
for Metro Canada

While most people try to avoid stress, Ricardo Ameerali intends to make a living from it.

The 23-year-old, originally from Trinidad, is enrolled in the Registered Massage Therapy program from the West Coast College of Massage Therapy and loving every stress-induced minute of it.

"My favourite part is the practical experience and the exposure to pathologies that we're taught to manage," he said.

The program takes two years and 3,000 hours to complete, upon which students graduate with a diploma in Massage Therapy. As a part of training, students study courses such as Anatomy & Physiology, Neurology, Kinesiology, as well as the practical application of massage.

Instructor Najat Adams said that although there are no prerequisites for the program, a background in biology and chemistry would benefit students. Ameerali is happy with the challenges the course is bringing him in his fifth term.

"So far it's been one of the most monumental challenges of my life and also one of the most rewarding experiences.

"Learning about the human body is fascinating and being able to apply our knowledge in a practical way is empowering; you can take it anywhere you go," he said.

Instructor Adams said that there is also a great demand for this career as our society is turning more and more toward alternative medicine.

"The demand is so great right now that you'd be hard pressed to find a massage therapist that has an opening on the same day.

"An average MT works four days a week, with possibly six to seven clients a day, so you would be looking at roughly $80,000 a year after deductions," he said.

But this kind of success does not come easily and students must be prepared to work hard.

Ameerali advises students to fully commit to the program.

"If you decide to do this, be committed to your own success by being consistent with good study habits, exercising regularly and be willing to make the sacrifice," he said.

When he graduates, Ameerali hopes to tour Europe and Africa and utilize his massage therapy skills by opening up a spa line in the Caribbean, and improving the level of education required in Trinidad to become a Registered Massage Therapist.

"Once that's rolling, I plan to come back to Canada and start my own clinic and family," he said.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Ricardo Ameerali plans to open a spa line in the Caribbean after he graduates from the West Coast College of Massage Therapy.

the course

- Course: Registered Massage Therapy
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Yukon College drops general mechanics program

Yukon College has cancelled its general mechanics program because of a lack of interest, despite a seemingly high demand for mechanics in the territory. Just one person applied to the program by August. METRO NEWS SERVICES

The prospect of a multi-million dollar settlement is luring many to the idea of class action lawsuits.

Class actions on the rise

WorkplaceLaw

"GREATNESS LIES NOT IN BEING STRONG, BUT IN THE RIGHT USE OF STRENGTH."
-HENRY WARD BEECHER

It's workplace law's newest, and biggest, phenomenon: lawyers specializing in class action lawsuits, joining together groups of employees with similar legal claims. But mass justice may come with a price: employees, excited by thoughts of multi-million dollar settlements, seem unaware that their interests may not be aligned.

Don't misunderstand. If you are one of the thousands of Canadian employees with claims for overtime, unpaid wages or pensions, joining a class action lawsuit makes sense. Pursuing the matter on an individual basis does not garner the same attention from your ex-employer as a $600-million lawsuit on behalf of 10,000 employees would, such as the suit the CIBC currently faces for unpaid overtime. With the potential of recovering seven-figure damage awards and moving their case's coverage from this column to the front page of the news.

However, with recent workplace class action lawsuits for overtime and unpaid wages sharing national headlines with large scale downsizing and layoffs, class action lawyers have been sharpening their pens, taking aim at mass wrongful dismissal actions. But not so fast. In wrongful dismissal suits, where the individual facts of each ex-employee's claim determines its ultimate merit, a class proceeding may be a mass mistake. Some concerns:

- Not all class action lawsuits actually proceed. Class action firms spend great time and expense attempting to have the case certified by a judge. Some linger uncertified for years. For overtime claims, such as the CIBC case, which is still pending, most employees remain at their jobs or have found others. But in wrongful dismissal cases where the plaintiffs are unemployed, there is a need for speedy settlements.
- How will settlement monies in class action wrongful dismissal suits be appropriately distributed? The Supreme Court recently confirmed damages for wrongful dismissal should be adjusted upwards or downwards based on the unique individual circumstances of each plaintiff, such as any particular reason that would cause one person to take longer to find another job.

Mass lawsuits for wrongful dismissal may also create conflicting interests within the members of the class. There will be instances where some ex-employees should settle their claims, such as where re-employment is certain, while others should hold out for a better deal.

How will legal fees be equitably distributed? Class action lawsuits pay lawyers based on a percentage of recovery. However, in a class action setting, the work performed for each claimant is, in part, a duplication of the work performed for the group. Further, if the lawyers are paid based on a percentage of recovery for the group, what incentive do they then have to really consider the unique circumstances of each plaintiff?

In a mediation that I did last week, I represented five employees who are suing their ex-employer for wrongful dismissal. It is not a class action suit, but I have advanced their claims as a group, though each employee has a separate claim. The mediator remarked that my clients were smarter to fight as a group rather than to stand alone. "There is strength in numbers", he argued while assuring us that five simultaneous claims could not be ignored. He was correct.

Although the case did not settle, we made our point. If we could sue individually but proceed as a group, what incentive do we have to join a class action?

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

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Keeping your business out of trouble

If paying employees meant nothing more than writing cheques and handing them out on time, more employers would do it themselves. But as most owners are realizing, the do-it-yourself approach to payroll doesn't pay, because there's also the record keeping, calculation and payment of specific taxes, and management of year-end paperwork for the company and its employees. Make a mistake and you could end up on the wrong side of Canada Revenue Agency, facing penalties and even interest on money owed. NEWS CANADA

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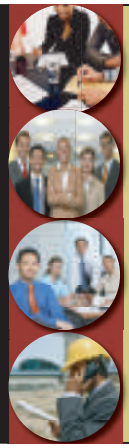
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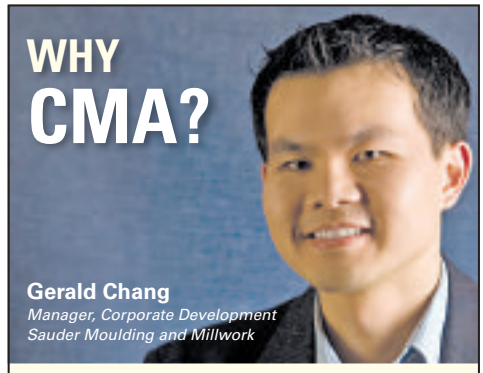
Gerald Chang
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"Thanks in large part to my experience and my current training in the CMA Program, I recently accepted a promotion and will be using a lot of what I learn as a CMA to enhance our company's leadership development and overall corporate strategy."
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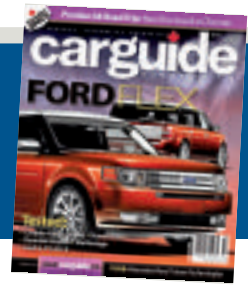

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Subaru lands a knockout

Revamped Impreza adds some pizzazz to a reliable ride

LORNE DRURY
for Metro Canada

Subaru has built a reputation over the years of producing safe, reliable, and functional vehicles.

While far from being disasters in the styling arena, most Subarus have never had what you would call that "knockout" punch when it comes to looks. Much like the Volvos of yesteryear, Subaru became known for solid, dependable vehicles that tended to blend in with the crowd and didn't set hearts aflutter.

But that appears to be changing, as a look at Subaru's 2008 Impreza lineup will attest.

I recently spent a few days with the Impreza 2.5i five-door hatchback, decked out with the fancy Sport Package, and it was impressive both from a looks and performance standpoint.

The Impreza is an all-new car for 2008, and the 2.5i Sport five-door is the best looking model in the lineup, in my opinion. Subarus may be changing from a design standpoint, but they continue to offer what has made them popular in the first place: functionality and, of course, their trademark all-wheel drive feature standard on all models.

On the five-door models, Subaru's new design for the Impreza features a sweeping roof line curve that flows into an aerodynamic rear spoiler. Front and centre is Subaru's new spread-wing logo design at the top of the wider grille. There's also a character line sweeping upward at the rear that produces a distinctive look.

Now in its third generation, the Impreza for 2008 comes in both four-door sedan (unique to the North American market) and five-door hatchback body styles, with a choice of five-speed manual or four-speed automatic transmission with Sportshift. Both sedan and five-door are available with the Sport Package or turbocharged WRX option.

The basic powerplant is a 2.5-litre Boxer engine, delivering 170 hp and 170 lb/ft of torque. The WRX gets the 2.5-litre with a turbocharger and double overhead cams to produce 224 hp and 226 lb/ft of torque.

Prices start at $20,695 for the 2.5i sedan with manual transmission. The 2.5i five-door is $21,595, while the 2.5i sedan with Sport Package is $23,195 and the five-door Sport is $24,895. The WRX sedan with manual is $32,995 and the WRX five-door prices out at $33,895. Add $1,100 for the automatic transmission.

Standard features on all Imprezas include anti-lock braking system (ABS) with electronic brake-force distribution (EBD), front disc and rear drum brakes, driver and front passenger front and side-impact airbags and side curtain airbags, 16-inch steel wheels, power heated mirrors, AM/FM/MP3/WMA audio system with four speakers, air conditioning, cruise control, 60/40 split folding rear seats and cloth upholstery.

The Sport Package adds rear disc brakes, brake assist, vehicle dynamics control system and traction control, 16-inch aluminum alloy wheels, body colour door handles, halogen fog lamps, windshield wiper de-icer, leather wrapped steering wheel and gear selector, heated front seats and an enhanced audio system.

My time with the Impreza was uneventful from a weather standpoint, so I really had little chance to put the symmetrical all-wheel drive system to the test.

Subaru offers two types of all-wheel drive systems on the Impreza that are mated to the manual or automatic transmission.

In both cases, the system reacts to wheel slippage and power is supplied to the wheels with the best traction.

Inside, the cabin is comfortable with more hip and shoulder room than on previous models. The door opening has also been enlarged to make it easier to get in and out. A longer wheelbase, at 9.5 cm (3.7 inches), results in more rear seat legroom.

A new feature is a Hill Holder Incline Start Assist to prevent vehicle roll-back, standard on 2.5i Sport and WRX models equipped with manual transmissions.

2008 Subaru Impreza

Type: Sedan
Price: $20,695-$33,895
Engine: 2.5 four-cylinder
HP: 170-226

Highlights

- All-wheel drive
- Comfortable cabin
- Roll-back prevention

The interior of the Subaru Impreza has more hip and shoulder room than previous models.

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Mazda creates a big beauty

Crossover CX-9 makes a family drive more fun and less stressful

MICHAEL GOETZ
for Metro Canada

The Mazda CX-9 GT came to class ready for anything we could throw at it. And when it graduated, the crossover was sporting a very impressive report card.

The CX-9 is Mazda's largest vehicle. Now that minivans aren't cool enough — and many automakers, like Mazda, no longer feel the need to offer one — the seven-seater CX-9 fills the role as the brand's premier people mover.

It's based on the Mazda 6 platform, which has been modified and massaged for its new duty. It shares the 273-hp 3.7-litre V6 doing duty in the Lincoln MKS, and said V6 is hooked up to a six-speed Aisin automatic transmission.

The most inexpensive CX-9 is the FWD GS model, at about $39,995. But ours was the most expensive CX-9 in the catalogue — a fully optioned GT model ($51,710).

2009 Mazda CX-9

Type: Crossover
Price: $39,995-$46,825
Engine: 3.5 V6
HP: 263

Highlights

- Spacious
- Attractive styling
- Long-haul specialist

GT models start the proceedings at about $46,825; its most notable enhancement over GS models is the lovely 20-inch wheel and tire set. Our baby also got AWD ($2,000), DVD system with Bose 5.1 surround-sound stereo with 11 speakers and wireless headphones ($2,675), and a package that included copious luxury bits, navigation with Bluetooth, and rear-view camera ($1,520).

We won't list the standard safety and convenience features, because, believe us, it's not lacking in any.

Topping our lists of positives is styling. Beauty is always in the eye of the beholder, so go and behold yourself, but we think Mazda did a great job in marrying sporty details — like those lights, wheels and integrated exhaust tips — into a sleek people-mover format.

The look and feel of the inside of the vehicle also garnered its share of raves. The faux wood used throughout the cabin is a dark, heavily lacquered variety, symbolic of a type found in traditional Japanese art work.

However, while touch-screen controls are cool and high-tech, most of us would still prefer durable and easy-to-reach controls for items that need frequent adjusting. And while the wrap-around centre console is beautiful to behold, a few of us thought it made the cabin feel less spacious.

Customers more obsessed with chassis dynamics will also be pleasantly surprised. The vehicle performs better than its size and weight would indicate.

The front seats and driving position were also praised. They are crucial cogs in the CX-9's prowess as a long-haul specialist. Also, the DVD player/babysitter might have a little hand in keeping the stress levels down on long family rides.

The second row is a 60/40 split-bench affair that can slide fore and aft, so there is a ton of legroom to be had back there. This is a very long vehicle; not surprisingly, there is more than an average amount of cargo space behind that second row, and behind the third row as well, when that row is up and/or in use.

The second-row bench is very well designed, but if your family is six or less, two captain chairs in the back would be more comfy, keep sibling skirmishes down, and make third-row access better.

Fuel economy is not stellar, but this shouldn't be a big shock as the CX-9 is what it is — a big crossover. Energuide ratings are: 14.0 L/100 km city, 9.7 L/100 km hwy. And note that you pay a discernable premium for AWD: the FWD CX-9 is rated at 13.2 L/100 km City, 9.0 L/100 km Hwy.

If you need the room and seven-passenger seating, you need to have this vehicle on your shopping list.

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Saab surging on turbo power

MICHAEL BANOVSKY
for Metro Canada

Saab 9-3 Turbo X

Type: Sedan
Price: $54,995
Engine: 2.8-litre V6
HP: 280

Highlights

- Fastest Saab ever
- All-wheel drive

The secret to a great Saab is to let the Swedes do their own thing. The 93. The 96. The 99 Turbo. The 900 Turbo. And, finally, the 9-3 Turbo X. They're all models that deliver on engineering prowess, Swedish sensibility, and now, all-weather performance.

Yeah, the Turbo X has all-wheel drive. I mentioned engineering prowess for a reason, because throughout its history, Saab has pioneered unique solutions for its vehicles. With their low-volume production, Saab makes a perfect candidate to pioneer new GM technologies.

For the car's XWD ('cross' wheel drive) system, Saab partnered with Haldex to deliver a drivetrain that can split power fore and aft, plus side to side between the rear wheels.

Unlike past Haldex systems, torque is distributed throughout the drivetrain from a standstill. Older systems needed a certain amount of wheel spin to send torque to the required wheel, but XWD is ready instantly.

Performance fiends take note: Saab says the system's rear eLSD (electronic limited-slip differential) will "increase the performance envelope at high lateral acceleration." More on that in a moment.

At the heart of the car is a massaged and turbocharged 2.8-litre V6, good for the aforementioned 280 horsepower and 295 lb-ft of torque. It's torquey, with a strong powerband and turbo surge — and not unlike Volvo's similar-displacement turbocharged six-cylinder engine. There's a character to all turbo-ed sixes, with Saab's being more raucous than most because of its lovely exhaust.

But is it the fastest Saab ever? Zero to 100 flashes by in 5.5 seconds ... so, yeah ... fastest Saab ever.

Once behind the wheel, Saab is adamant that they have the best integration of all-wheel-drive with the "vehicle's various systems."

But they're right. Saabs usually handle like they're on a slope of a roof — fun for a second, until you're on the way down. The Turbo X, though, is tenacious, feeling more like an Audi RS4 than anything in recent memory. High praise.

As it stands, the Turbo X is a great car that shows there is still a lot of potential for future world-beating Saabs.

If an all-wheel-drive Saab with 280 horsepower costing over $54,995 (and $56,305 for the sexy Sport-Combi) makes you excited, the queue has already formed.

With zero to 100 flashing by in 5.5 seconds, the Saab 9-3 Turbo X is the fastest model from the automaker.

Fuel-saving tech comes to Canada

VORTEX A patented magnetic system that can help you pay less at the pump is finally available in Canada.

The Vortex Fuel Saver increases combustion efficiency resulting in fuel savings, reduced emission and extended engine life. Scientific results for the technology have shown increases in mileage by about 15 to 22 per cent and up to 99 per cent reduction in harmful emissions. The gadget is easily installed in less than 15 minutes without any special tools. It does not require cutting any lines or inserting anything into the engine; it is simply secured to the fuel, air and coolant lines, without any further maintenance, and does not affect vehicle warranty.

"I'm very excited our technology will help Canadians save money on gas and reduce harmful emissions," said Adam Fagan, director of Canadian business operations. To learn more about the Vortex Fuel Saver, visit www.vortexfuelsaver.ca

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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SE model shown, MSRP $15,770

The new incredibly fuel-efficient **2009 PONTIAC G3 WAVE.** That's right. No matter what you're driving right now, you're probably spending more time with the gas pump than you want to. Maybe you need to start hanging around with a G3 Wave. With 5.7L/100 KM on the highway and 7.9L/100 KM in the city[1], it's certainly not going to strengthen your relationship with the gas pump, but honestly, what did that old pump really do for you, anyway? The G3 Wave, on the other hand will give you an auxiliary audio input jack, five star rating for frontal impact[2], available side-impact airbags, optional OnStar® and the best coverage in Canada[3]. So go ahead, break old pumpy's heart. And never look back. **Cash Purchase Price at $11,595**.*

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Beautiful beer

It's time for Munich's Oktoberfest, so get out your beer steins, sausage knives and lederhosen. This is the perfect opportunity to boast a beer belly whilst drinking ice-cold Bavarian beer. Oktoberfest Munich will run from Sept. 20 to Oct. 5. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Naumi Hotel in Singapore sure knows how to treat a lady. An entire floor of this boutique hotel will be dedicated to women on their business travels and serviced by female staff. METRO WORLD NEWS

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JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Metelkova, the alternative zone in Ljubljana, is a hub of artistic expression and anarchist lifestyle.

Ljubljana just lovely

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon

juliadimon.com

Ljubljana. With some 50,000 university students living in the city, the vibe is abuzz with youth, culture and nightlife. Who knew that the Slovenian capital city I can hardly pronounce would turn out to be one of the hippest spots in Europe. There's something really nice about Ljubljana. It has that manageable, small city feeling, with all the perks of a big one. From theatre, to art, fine dining restaurants to trendy boutiques, it fulfills all my requirements of "cool." Most importantly, it's a backpacker-friendly location with a well-established tourist infrastructure and lots of English speakers. The landscape, carved with canals and bicycle paths, reminds me of Amsterdam, minus the tacky souvenirs, sleazy sex shops and legalized pot cafés.

Ljubljana's Old Town is rich with Baroque, Gothic and Art Nouveau architecture. Footpaths lead to historic castles, frescoes decorate cathedrals, bronze dragon statues guard bridges. But beyond the architecture and famous monuments, it's a chill place with tons of outdoor cafés, perfect for people watching.

Down a strip of cobblestones, a parade of scenesters saunter past. Women with big scarves smoke skinny cigarettes. Men rock effeminate styles, oversized sunglasses and the occasional Euro mullet.

For the anti-commercial scene, Metelkova is the place to be. An autonomous zone for off-the-wall artistic expression, this outdoor urban space is devoted to counter-culture.

Amidst the graffiti walls and squat-like surroundings, there are bars, a few gay clubs, performing art spaces and music venues playing everything from punk to reggae.

The area has an anarchist aura, with anti-police graffiti and rockers in black. Though guidebooks say "your hair doesn't have to be pink to fit in," I argue that it sure does help.

Rastas strum guitars, angst-ridden teenagers mope, pit bulls frolic as their tattooed owners drink absinthe. Meltelkova is a must visit.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; juliadimon.com.

In a scene from The Dutchess Keira Knightley walks down the hall of Greenwich Naval College in London.

Take a stroll through 18th century England

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News

Keira Knightley's new movie, The Duchess, is the perfect way to spirit yourself back to the 18th century.

The movie is based on the biography of Georgiana Spencer, a beautiful aristocrat who marries the wealthy but cold Duke of Devonshire. While her marriage is empty, her social schedule is full — she's a society darling, fashion icon, political campaigner, adulterer, compulsive gambler, and England's first celebrity.

But just as dramatic as Georgiana's story are the lavish costumes, towering wigs and the sumptuous 18th century sets.

Director Saul Dibb was committed to making the set as authentic as possible, so the movie is filmed in authentic 18th century homes and gardens.

Viewers get the chance to see inside some of the most opulent historic houses in England throughout the movie, but can also go for snoop in person — all of these stunning places are open to the public. Georgiana's country home, Chatsworth House was built in between 1686 and 1707 and is still the Devonshire family's home today, run by the current Duke and Duchess.

Set in extensive grounds, in the stunning rolling green hills of the Derbyshire countryside, this vast manor and the magnificent gardens, are open to the public, so you can sweep through the long corridors like Keira Knightley does in the film (chatsworth.org).

Unfortunately the Duke and Duchesses' London residence, Devonshire House, no longer exists, so Dibb had to create it using a sort of 'best of' some of the most majestic stately homes in England.

One of London's loveliest art galleries, the Neoclassical Somerset House was used to represent the exterior of Devonshire House. Come here to see the building's grand Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court that Georgiana enters by horse-drawn carriage when she is first taken home by the Duke and greeted by legions of servants. The building is home to the Courtald Gallery, which has one of the most important collections of art in England — including works by Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Cezanne and Turner. (somersethouse.org.uk)

Also in London is Greenwich Naval College. This splendid naval academy on the river Thames was transformed into Covent Garden for the scene where Georgiana introduces her lover Charles Grey, a parliamentary candidate, to a huge crowd. (oldroyalnavalcollege.org).

The Chatsworth House, which was built between 1686 and 1707 and is still the Devonshire family's home today. Run by the current Duke and Duchess, the house is seen in the movie The Duchess.

Place to stay

- Unfortunately you can't stay in the present Duke and Duchess of Devonshire's home, but you can stay at their rustic country pub, The Devonshire Arms in the charming village of Beeley, from £125 (about $240) a night. (devonshire-beeley.co.uk)

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MTV picks up Hills spinoff

A much-talked-about Hills spinoff featuring Whitney Port has been officially picked up by MTV, sources confirm to E! News exclusively. "They will start shooting immediately," says a show source. The series is to start airing in early 2009. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Entertainment

Keira talks Scott

Keira Knightley is in talks to play the wife of novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald in a new biopic. The film, The Beautiful and the Damned, will look at the relationship between the author and Zelda Sayre. **BBC NEWS ONLINE**

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

The only thing certain in life is uncertainty

HineSight

Anne Hines

Today, I want to talk about uncertainty. I'm just not entirely sure what to say about it.

What started me thinking about this was that this past week I learned of a serious problem inherent in bar stools. My friend Belle broke her ankle by falling off one. Some people might ask, "Was she dancing on the stool at the time?" or "Had she had a few?", which just goes to show they don't know Belle. Of course she wasn't dancing on the stool. And of course she'd had a few.

We all have to live with the knowledge that bar stool-related unpleasantness could happen at any time. I don't like uncertainty. It makes me feel … uncertain. A lot of people share this feeling. That's why we turn to paid experts who can assure us of what the future holds. I consulted a palm reader once. She charged me $40 and told me I'm destined to spend money foolishly. I left thinking she was right.

We want our world to be predictable and stable. The problem is that a) it isn't, and b) well, that's it really. And it's not just what's around us, it's also what's inside us that can turn on a dime. A few years ago, I was sitting in a boardroom waiting to start a meeting. A woman walked in whom I'd never met. I thought, "Oh my god. I'm gay." I'm not the only person to have this happen. Personally, I'm glad I wasn't operating heavy machinery at the time.

Sometimes uncertainty feels like falling off a bar stool and sometimes it feels like falling in love. In any case, no warning label can prepare us for the jolts and joys that lie ahead. Life will surprise us. I'm certain.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

State of the Western

PHILIP BROWN
for Metro Canada

One of the best westerns to ride onto screens in years, Ed Harris' new film Appaloosa does a surprisingly good job of reviving and updating the genre — but whether it will strike gold with audiences is another story

Appaloosa — starring Viggo Mortensen — is riding high-in-the-saddle among critics and western fans.

There was a time when Hollywood produced a saddle-ful of westerns, but by the late '60s the genre was pretty much dead.

Directors like Sam Peckinpah (The Wild Bunch) and Sergio Leone (The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly) created revisionist westerns that toyed with the formula and excited new audiences, yet it almost felt as if there was no where left to go in the genre once they were done with it.

There have been numerous attempts to revive the western since then, the most successful being Clint Eastwood's 1992 masterpiece Unforgiven. The film was easily one of the most thought-provoking and interesting examples of the genre, sparking a wave of new westerns in the '90s, including Jim Jarmusch's quietly brilliant Dead Man, Sam Raimi's kinetic The Quick And The Dead, and the blockbuster Western Tombstone.

They were all solid films, but none was successful enough to breathe new life into the genre. Since then, there has been a new western every few years but, sadly, nothing that generated much commercial interest.

Last year's 3:10 To Yuma proved that westerns could still be bankable, but the success of that movie had more to do with the combined star power of Russell Crowe and Christian Bale than anything else.

The amazing HBO series Deadwood is one of the most remarkable westerns ever created, but despite a cavalcade of awards and critical acclaim it never had much of an audience and was cancelled before reaching the planned concluding fourth season.

Surprisingly, some of the most entertaining westerns to be produced in recent years are wild pop-art experiments to emerge from Asia, including Takashi Miike's Sukiyaki Western Django, and Ji-Woon Kim's upcoming The Good, The Bad, And The Weird.

However, as fun as these movies are, they won't have much impact on this quintessentially American genre.

As long as there are filmmakers with a sense of the history of cinema, there will be westerns, but unfortunately it doesn't look like genre will ever be commercially viable again. The days of John Ford have passed, and they may never return.

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Emmy hosts offensive, Leary says
Comedian Denis Leary said he was "offended" by the reality TV hosts of the Emmys. IMDB.COM

Serena hits town

Edgewater Casino will roll out the red carpet this Saturday when it hosts the official closing party of the Vancouver International Film Festival's Film and TV Forum. Homegrown celebs like **Gabrielle Miller** and **John Cassini** are expected to attend the Insite Film Studios Red Carpet Event, which honours Canadian filmmakers, writers and celebrities. ET Canada's **Rick Campanelli**, arguably best known for being a MuchMusic personality for nearly a decade, will host. Stargazers are welcome to ogle away between 9 and 10 p.m. at Edgewater Casino (750 Pacific Blvd.).

Tennis pro **Serena Williams**, currently ranked No. 1 in the world, drew a crowd of more than 70 people when she practised at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton Club on West 15th Avenue last Wednesday. "Venus told me that Vancouver was a really pretty city," the 18-time Grand Slam winner told the media. "I got to see the water and everyone was great at the (tennis club)." Williams, who was visiting for the first time, took in a two-hour practice early afternoon before heading over to boyfriend **Common**'s show with **N.E.R.D.** at Malkin Bowl in Stanley Park.

GETTY IMAGES

Common, for his part, stepped up the creativity of his live show with a set that was made to look like a club and began with him busting past bouncers.

Shortly before accepting her Emmy award for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series over the weekend, **Jean Smart** (Samantha Who?) was indulging in a weight loss and beauty treatment courtesy of a Burnaby-based company. Body Beautiful Canada, the only Canadian company invited to partake in the pre-Emmy celebrity gifting event, treated the three-time Emmy winner to the Universal Contour Wrap, which consists of wrapping the body in 25 to 30 bandages soaked in a mineral-rich clay solution. Other celebs who made appointments with the company include American Idol judge **Randy Jackson**, Grey's Anatomy castoff **Isaiah Washington** and Doogie freakin' Howser himself, **Neil Patrick Harris**.

HollywoodNorth

Andrea Woo
andrea.woo@metronews.ca

Andrea Woo is a Vancouver-based news and entertainment reporter.

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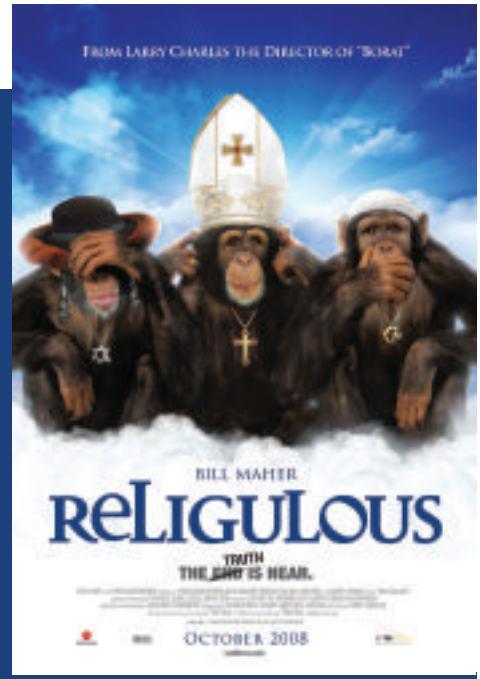

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metro Do it daily.

90210 picked up for full season

TV 90210 has been picked up for a full season of episodes, usmagazine.com reports.

"We're very excited about the chance to watch this ensemble of newcomers and familiar faces coalesce and grow together as we move forward," said Dawn Ostroff, president of entertainment at the CW.

In brief

CASTING The producers of ER are hoping to entice George Clooney back for the show's final season, even though he has said he's not interested in putting his scrubs back on, Reuters reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
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VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 9/24/08	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News	The Insider	Knight Rider (CC)		Deal or No Deal (CC)		True Hollywood Story (CC)		News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two-Half Men	Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	eTalk (CC)	Hollywood	Dancing With the Stars (CC)		Criminal Minds "Mayhem"		CSI: NY "Veritas" (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	Scrubs (CC)	According-Jim	The Practice "Part V" (CC)		Third Watch (CC)		The Daily	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (N) (PA) (CC)		NCIS "Last Man Standing"		Crime Stories (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Robson Arms	TMZ (N) (CC)	America's Next Top Model (N)		America's Got Talent (CC)		Cold Case (CC)		News (CC)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Secret Life of American Teen		Hell's Kitchen (CC)		Lipstick Jungle (CC)		Reviews
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds "Mayhem"		CSI: NY "Veritas" (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Knight Rider (CC)		America's Got Talent (CC)		Lipstick Jungle (CC)		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Grocery	What You Eat	Supersize vs. Superskinny (N)		Gok's Fashion Fix (N)		Style by Jury
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars (CC)		David Blaine Dive of Death (Same-day Tape) (CC)				News (N)
	-	-	26 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Buying the Cow ★ (2001) Jerry O'Connell, Bridgette Wilson.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	He Touched Me		Killer Stress: National		American Masters (N) (CC)				J Denver
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two-Half Men	Bones (N) (PA) (CC)		'Til Death (N)	Do Not	News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	48 PBS	(6:00) American Masters (N)		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Killer Stress: National	
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Cheers (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two-Half Men	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 (CC)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two-Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	37 WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Two-Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		ET Canada	Entertainment	Kitchen Nightmares (CC)	
news	502	390	23 NW	Monarchy: The Royal Family		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Politics with Don Newman		The Hour
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Sportsnet	MLB Baseball Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim at Seattle Mariners.					Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Off the Record	The Streak (N) (CC)				SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides "Southern Spain"		Don't Forget Your Passport		The Search "France" (CC)		Ed's Up (CC)
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Sports Rage		Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Pinks Out	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol Colombiano		Gol TV News		American Soccer		Paid Program	Kings Club	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Imp.	Prank Patrol	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	George	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	The Critic (N)	Chicken	Lucy Devil
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	65 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	The Bitties	Big Comfy
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Meerkat	Undersea	Black Coffee (CC)		Gala Concert in St. Petersburg			Cello	Washington
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Jason McCoy's Smashtown		Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Ed (CC)
	570	580	24 MM	MTV's Top Pop Group Ashanti.			Technical Diff.	Punk'd (CC)	MTV's Top Pop Group Ashanti.			Spotlight
	600	564	29 H&G	Flipping Out		Holmes	Holmes	Property Shop	City	Property	Unsellable	Flipping Out
	615	520	31 A&E	Criss Angel Mindfreak (N)		Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Criss Angel
	628	584	32 SPKE	The Ultimate Fighter (N)		MANswers (N)	MANswers	CSI: NY "Wasted" (CC)		Star Trek: Voyager "Q2"		Deep Space 9
	521	560	34 TLC	My Unique Family (CC)		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	My Unique Family (CC)		Jon & Kate
	616	522	39 SHO	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Billable Hours	Billable Hours	Durham County (CC)		The Riches (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	The Letters	The Achievers	Law & Order "Darkness"		Without a Trace "At Rest"		Frogs for Snakes ★★ (1998, Suspense) (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	Inside Hollywood "Murderer"		X-Weighted (CC)		Work Out (CC)		Inside Hollywood "Murderer"		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	Mayday "Phantom Strike"		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters (CC)		Cash Cab	Factory Made	Mayday (CC)
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Skeletons" (CC)		Cities of the Underworld		Robin Hood-Outlaw Hero		NCIS "Skeletons" (CC)		Jetman (CC)
	627	528	45 SPC	Ghost Hunters International		Stargate SG-1 "Beachhead"		Lost (CC)		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Star Trek
	294	650	47 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Something to Talk About ★★ (1995) (CC)		
	619	525	48 TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210 (CC)		Reality	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	Family Guy
	603	561	52 FN	Jamie's Australian Diary (N)		Challenge (CC)		Iron Chef America Cat Cora.		Jamie's Australian Diary		Challenge
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black	RENO 911! (N)	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:25) The Accidental Witness		True Blood "Mine" (CC)		The Bourne Ultimatum ★★★ (2007) Matt Damon, Julia Stiles.				Intro-Dwights
	581	566	101 MTV	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live	After	From G's to Gents "Reunion"		Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Festival of	Building Faith	Meet the Sumdees (CC)		Festival of	Building Faith	Meet the Sumdees (CC)		Paid Program
	-	-	189 MUL	Matchmaker	Daughters	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal		Patrol World

critics'corner

Lewis Black's Root of All Evil
Disco and the Dead or Madonna and mall pop? Bubble gum or boy bands? Hippie hair or big hair? It's the battle of the generations in this new episode as Paul F. Tompkins and Andy Daly debate whether the baby boom generation or Gen X is the root of all evil. Both are Gen Xers — Tompkins was born in 1968 and Daly in 1971 — but it will be boomer Lewis Black, a 1948 baby, who casts the deciding vote. 10 PM on COM

Knight Rider
You asked for it, you got it. When the classic 1980s action show was revived as a TV movie last winter, inquiring minds wanted to know: Will there be a series? And here it is. Justin Bruening returns as Mike, the former Army Ranger assigned to keep superintelligent car KITT out of the wrong hands. Deanna Russo also stars, with Val Kilmer as the voice of KITT. And while David Hasselhoff did appear in the TV movie, the series is Hoff-free. Sorry. 8 PM on JOY NBC

Jonny Lee Miller, wife expecting first child
Jonny Lee Miller of TV's Eli Stone and his wife, Michele Hicks, are expecting their first child, according to the actor's rep. The couple wed earlier this year. PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Renée talks about breast cancer scare

HEALTH Renée Zellweger has opened up about her breast cancer scare, which threatened to halt her career after the success of Jerry Maguire, imdb.com reports.

The actress reveals she found two small masses in her right breast during a self examination in 1996 and decided to get them checked out.

Zellweger, who lost her grandmother to cancer in 1969, recalls, "I thought, 'Oh, I know what you do now. You find out what that is.' So I went and found out."

The actress tells America's Self magazine she made an appointment with her doctor in Los Angeles and went to his clinic with a no-nonsense attitude.

"I was like, 'Let's just have it over with. Get in there, stab away, get your little crunchy bit or whatever you're looking for, put it in the mail and we'll call it a day,'" she adds. "Then I had a weird couple of days waiting for the phone call."

Zellweger eventually discovered she had fibroadenomas (benign breast tumours), which she calls, "a fancy word for nothing."

But the experience made her take cancer threats more seriously: "I pay attention, I do go get my checkups."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Spears pics probe

PRIVACY Police in Louisiana are hunting a store worker who has allegedly tried to sell private photographs from the Spears family album, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Snaps of new mom Jamie Lynn Spears breast feeding her three-month-old daughter Maddie have been offered to the media.

The collection of photographs also includes pop star and older sister Britney holding her niece alongside her parents around Jamie Lynn's hospital bed shortly after the teenager gave birth.

Reports claim the photographs were taken on the camera of Jamie Lynn's boyfriend Casey Aldridge before he took the camera card to a local store, but extra copies were made by a male employee.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Jodie filming reality show

CAREER Jodie Sweetin is taking the "rock 'n' roll" approach to getting back on the small screen, according to People.com.

"My husband and I are now shooting our reality show, which is going to be really fun," Sweetin said. "It's following us and our new baby."

Explained the former Full House star with a laugh: "Kind of like a Tori and Dean vibe, but we're a little more rock and roll. We're a little edgier."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity briefs

Gwyneth starts lifestyle site

WEBSITE Academy Award winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow has launched her own lifestyle website, Goop by Gwyneth Paltrow, usmagazine.com reports.

Each of the sections, which include Make, "Go," Get, Do, Be, and See, feature an essay written by Paltrow.

"My life is good because I am not passive about it," Paltrow writes.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Love searches for housekeeper

ONLINE Singer/actress Courtney Love has taken to MySpace to find a housekeeper in Malibu, Calif., TMZ.com reports.

Reportedly sick of using agencies who supply her with "pigs who steal," Love turned to the social networking site.

She makes it clear in her post that she doesn't want any "superfans."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

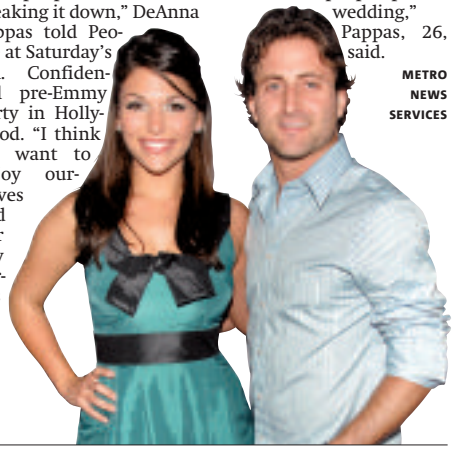
DeAnna wedding plans

COUPLE When it comes to weddings, The Bachelorette's engaged couple DeAnna Pappas and Jesse Csincsak are thinking small, People.com reports.

"We've gone from about 400 people, and we're breaking it down," DeAnna Pappas told People at Saturday's L.A. Confidential pre-Emmy party in Hollywood. "I think we want to enjoy ourselves and our day versus having to talk to a bunch of people all day long. So we're dwindling it down."

With a wedding date set for May 9, 2009, the couple said they are at square one with planning. "I don't know how people plan a wedding," Pappas, 26, said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Evacuation irks bare-faced Pam

PEOPLE Pamela Anderson was "mortified" when she had to evacuate a hotel without any makeup on, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The former Baywatch actress was forced to leave her five-star Paris hotel looking less than glamorous at 9 a.m. after firefighters were called to deal with a suspected gas leak.

"Pamela kept saying, 'What about my make-up? My make-up!' She was mortified. Her curlers were still in and she was wearing a baggy bathrobe. She looked more like an old woman than a world-famous pin-up," a source said.

Anderson was so distraught at the prospect of being seen with a natural face she reportedly even asked firefighters to help her leave through a secluded entrance, but her request was denied.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Victoria slams baby rumour

PEOPLE Victoria Beckham has denied rumours she is desperately trying for a fourth child with husband David, the Daily Mail reports.

The former Spice Girl claims she's too busy working on her burgeoning fashion line to even consider getting pregnant for another two years.

"I'm not even trying to get pregnant at the moment," she told Britain's the Sun. "I don't want another baby for two years because I'm working so hard on my fashion business. I haven't got time. Yes, we would like another child, but it won't be for a couple of years yet."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

So Louisiana police are hot on the trail of a store worker for allegedly trying to sell photographs of **Jamie Lynn Spears** breastfeeding her baby. Isn't it sort of understood that one of the fringe benefits of working in a photo booth at Wal-Mart, besides being able to wallpaper your bedroom with pictures of every attractive woman in your hometown, is the opportunity of selling to the highest bidder copies of the private pictures belonging to any celebrity too cheap to have an ink-jet printer at home?

People really ought to go to jail over this one, especially the guy who stole the photos, the person who buys them, and anyone who actually cares about Jamie Lynn Spears and **Casey Aldridge**.

It's pretty sleazy, and probably illegal in most states, to look at photos of a 17-year-old girl breastfeeding her child, but I doubt I'm the only one who's wondering whether Jamie Lynn squirts milk or Mountain Dew.

Of course the real danger here is that if these pictures get out, it will spoil the surprise of seeing them for the first time in The Family Spears' Season's Greetings Togetherness Christmas Calendar, sure to be a hot seller later this year.

Other calendar highlights include Jamie Lynn hitting a car seat with a fly swatter (March), Casey Aldridge teaching Britney's kids how to shotgun beers (September), mom Lynn Spears organizing her medication (February) and Brit flashing Santa Claus (December).

NEWSDESK@METRONEWS.CA

The Weather Network
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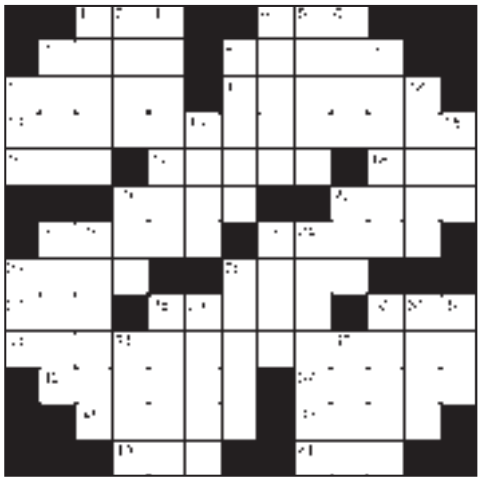
Today Rain 80% 15°/ 12°
Thursday Rain 80% 15°/ 12°
Friday Partly sunny 15°/ 10°

WarningsDirect Stay Alert! Stay Alive!

Take Five



Crossword across

1 Young bloke
4 Lavatory sign
7 Go sightseeing
8 Fills the cargo hold
10 Cognizant
11 One
1 3Joseph, Kevin and Nicholas
16 Donkey
17 Prognosticators
18 Dead heat
19 One of the 4-H Club's H's
20 Citi Field forerunner
21 Disdain
23 Bowlers' milieu
25 Son of Odin
26 Poultry
27 Mess up
28 Where to find Augusta
30 Greek cross
33 Dianne, Peggy, Kathy and Janet
36 Affluence
37 Speechify
38 "The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft —"
39 Church service
40 Method (Abbr.)
41 CBS logo

Crossword down

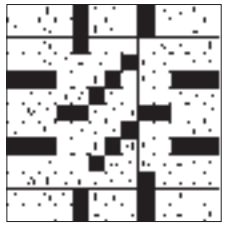
1 Bank transactions
2 Emanation
3 Bureau
4 Estate house
5 Tends texts
6 Benelux nation (Abbr.)
7 Pairs
8 Enticed
9 Boil slowly
10 "Mirrors" director Alexandre
12 Desiccates
14 Noggin
15 Red or Black
19 Perp. to vert.
20 Mr. Bill's home, briefly
21 Termagant
22 Part of 41-Across
23 Actress Anderson
24 "Radical, dude!"
25 Aviv lead-in
26 Arousing suspicion
28 Pitcher for the Yankees?
29 Initial stakes
30 Rib
31 Crafts' mates
32 Work with
34 Kvetches
35 Salver

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	2							7
			4	9	6			2
6					2	8	3	
	4				7			
		6				1		
			2				5	
	5	2	7					1
4			8	6	1			
3							9	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



7	2	6	5	4	1	3	8	9
5	8	4	3	9	6	7	1	2
3	1	9	7	8	2	4	6	5
8	3	5	6	2	4	1	9	7
2	4	1	9	7	8	5	3	6
9	6	7	1	5	3	8	2	4
1	7	2	8	6	5	9	4	3
6	9	3	4	1	7	2	5	8
4	5	8	2	3	9	6	7	1

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Recipe of the day

COOK SMART FOR A HEALTHY HEART

Barbecued Shrimp with Mustard Dipping Sauce

Treat yourself to skewers of juicy shrimp in an exotically spiced marinade.

INGREDIENTS:
3 tablespoons Dijon mustard
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
2 teaspoons ground coriander
2 teaspoons ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon pepper
24 large raw shrimp, peeled and deveined

METHOD:
1. To make the mustard dipping sauce, stir together the mustard, lemon juice, 1/2 teaspoon coriander, 1/2 teaspoon cumin and 1/4 teaspoon pepper in a small bowl. Set aside.

2. Combine the remaining 1-1/2 teaspoons coriander, 1-1/2 teaspoons cumin and 1/4 teaspoon pepper in a large bowl. Add the shrimp, tossing to coat.

3. Preheat the barbecue. Thread the shrimp onto four long skewers. Place the shrimp on the barbecue and cook until opaque throughout, about 1 minute per side. Serve at room temperature or chilled, with the mustard dipping sauce.

Nutrients per serving: calories 111, carbohydrate 1g, protein 23g, total fat 2g (saturated fat 0.3g)

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
There'll be encounters with a special person. A sweet girl is too unstable to support you. There's a need for privacy for a mature friend.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Preoccupation with other people's intentions develops. Refuse to interfere between relatives. A buddy reveals a different approach.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
An older friend feels touchier than usual. A minor mishap works out for a manipulator. A brand new toy brings joy to a woman.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A burden will be lifted when someone demands submission. You'll create some confusion. Anguish about family obligations will ease.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
A biased person is forced to give you a call. Don't do anything about spiteful gossip. A financial hardship is temporary.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't try to rush anything. Take advantage of feeling balanced. Watch carefully for signs of disgruntlement.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Security comes up in an emotional debate. Desperate times call for extreme methods. A chatty co-worker has overindulged in caffeine.

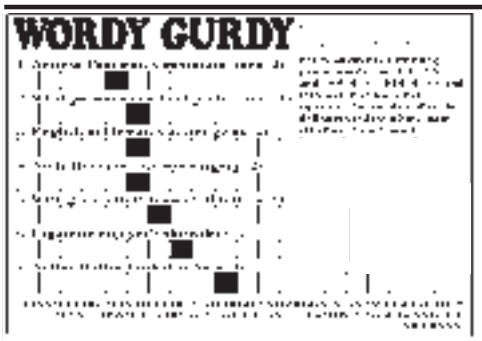
SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Something you were told is not really true. Someone is leaving you to do the dirty work. A death creates delay and confusion.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Overcome obstacles by asserting your personality. Don't get miffed with a parent. You'll experience good results with unusual associations.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Responsibility weighs heavily on your mind. A surreptitious conversation takes place. Sensitivity to another person's insincerity is disclosed.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
There's a happy surprise at a dull social event. Be aware of a romantic newcomer. An absent person is meeting with an older man.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Your impulses are challenged by someone. Listen in on a chat to be entertained. A savage beast helps you get through the day.



This day in history

SEPT. 24, 1789: The office of the Attorney General of the United States of America, and the United States Post Office Department are established.
SEPT. 24, 1869: Black Friday: Gold prices plummet after Ulysses S. Grant orders the Treasury to sell large quantities of gold after Jay Gould and James Fisk plot to control the market.
SEPT. 24, 1890: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints officially renounces polygamy.
SEPT. 24, 1948: The Honda Motor Company is founded.
SEPT. 24, 1957: Camp Nou, the largest stadium in Europe, is opened in Barcelona.

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(1) Local anytime minutes apply. (2) Excludes premium messages. Includes international text messages. (3) Unlimited local calling from 7pm to 8am, Monday through Thursday and from 7pm Friday to 8am Monday. (4) Taxes are extra. © 2008 Koodo Mobile.

Koodo Shop Locations

Brentwood Town Centre
Guildford Town Centre
Metropolis at Metrotown
Oakridge Centre
Richmond Centre